[President.]

Removal of Charkas by the Police at Vaikam.

55. MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Gover n ment aware that the Police at Vaikam have been forcibly taking away *charkas* from *Satyagrahis*?

(*b*) How many *charkas* have they thus taken away?

(*c*) Under what provision of law has this been done?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*):

(*a*) The member is referred to the answer to the question put by Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.

(*b*) The number of *charkas* seized is reported to be about fifteen.

(*c*) Section 35 (*b*) and (*d*) of the Police Regulation, IV of 1095.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether the Government have obstructed the road by putting up barricades across it?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Whether the barricades are obstructing the roads is a matter of opinion and I am not prepared to answer that.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): No, it is a matter of fact. The question whether they have put up barricades across the roads so as to obstruct the roads is a question of fact and not of opinion. Were not the *charkas* placed behind the barricades?

PRESIDENT: What do you mean by "behind the barricades"?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): On one side of the barricades, that is what I mean.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The information is that the *charkas* were placed not quite close to the barricades, but on the road itself, causing much inconvenience to the people and preventing traffic and causing nuisance to the adjacent shop-owners.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I know that the whole thing is in a public road. What I want to know is whether there are not barricades put up by the Government across the road.

PRESIDENT: That has been answered; there is a barricade.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): My question is whether these *charkas* were not placed on one side of the barricades put up by the Government themselves across the road so as to obstruct it.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Whether it is an obstruction or not is a matter of opinion. Therefore I decline to answer that question.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I do not think it is a matter of opinion.

PRESIDENT: The member in charge is not bound to answer all supplementary questions. Your question as to whether there is a barricade, he has already answered.

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MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): How is it that these *charkas* were seized when they did not obstruct anybody from passing from one side of the road to another?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As I have already said, on account of these *charkas*, all sorts of people gathered together causing much inconvenience to the shop-owners and the public who wanted to visit the shops. That was the obstruction caused by the *charkas*; and that necessitated their seizure.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that the barricade that they have put up across the road is producing much inconvenience to the people on account of the obstruction caused thereby?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not aware that it is causing any obstruction.

Removal of Charkas by the Police at Vaikam.

56. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Government aware of the seizure of *charkas* by the Police at the Vaikam road, and, if so, what is the number so seized?

(*b*) In doing so, had the Police any Government authority behind them?

(*c*) If not, what action have the Government taken against the policemen concerned?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): (*a*) to (*c*) The member is referred to the answers to the question put by Mr. Joseph Panjikaran and to question 55.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know how many *charkas* were returned to the *Satyagrahis*? It is stated that fifteen were seized. I want to know how many were returned.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe that all of them were returned. There is no definite information on the point.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that a few of them were destroyed?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Government are not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Have the Government made an enquiry?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): What was the necessity for an enquiry?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The report in the newspapers that *charkas* were taken and that all of them were not returned.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There was no specific allegation by anybody complaining that any *charka* was not returned.

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